

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN PRESS BACKGROUNDER ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON
BREZHNEV VISIT TO U.S.

REF: STATE 123426

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOL IS TEXT OF GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO AUSTRALIAN
PRESS BY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. GUIDANCE REFLECTS POSITIVE
VIEW DFA TAKES OF BREZHNEV VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN DFA (MAYNE-WILSON, CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
SECTION) HAS PROVIDED PAO WITH GUIDANCE USED BY DFA JUNE 29
IN WEEKLY BACKGROUNDER WITH PRESS, WITH REGARD TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT END OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO U.S. PRESS HAS CARRIED VERY
LITTLE ON SUBJECT, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT ABSTRUSE FOR MOST AUSTRALIANS.
HOWEVER, GUIDANCE STRIKES POSITIVE TONE AND REFLECTS FAVORABLE
OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS PROVIDED
TO DFA JUNE 25, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL.

3. BEGIN TEXT. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING MR. BREZHNEV'S
TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON REFERS TO A SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCE IN
THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND THE USSR. THIS IS TO BE WELCOMED. IF A CO-OPERATIVE
SPIRIT PREVAILS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO MOST POWERFUL NATIONS,
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THE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES WHICH ARISE

FROM TIME TO TIME WILL BE ENHANCED.

THE COMMUNIQUE LISTS A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IS THE AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR. THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE STABILIZATION OF THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, A PROCESS WHICH WAS SET IN TRAIN WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON VISITED MOSCOW IN MAY 1972. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THIS AGREEMENT.

WE ALSO WELCOME THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TWO LEADERS IN LAYING DOWN GUIDELINES WHICH GIVE PROSPECT OF A PERMANENT LIMITATION ON SOVIET AND AMERICAN OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC WEAPONS BEFORE THE END OF 1974. ALL COUNTRIES NATURALLY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS ANNOUNCED BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND MR. BREZHNEV IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO HALTING THE MILITARY COMPETITION BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS.

THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF MAJOR CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE TWO LEADERS THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS ON INDO CHINA MUST BE STRICTLY IMPLEMENTED AND SHARES THEIR CONCERN FOR THE NEED TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY END TO THE MILITARY CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA.
GREEN

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